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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/394,752	09/13/1999	MARI HORIGUCHI	450100-02087	4823

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FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG
745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL.
NEW YORK, NY 10151

EXAMINER

TRAN, THAI Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/394,752

Applicant(s)

HORIGUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Thai Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 September 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) Z.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: "form" in claim 6, line 6 should be changed to --from--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12-17, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanimura et al (WO97/36295, see US Patent No. 6,594,440 B1 for corresponding).

Regarding claim 1, Tanimura et al discloses an information processing apparatus connected to a external information processing apparatus (Fig. 1) via a network and having at least one sub-unit for executing a predetermined function, said information processing apparatus comprising:

input means (reservation data store section 4 of Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 63-67 of US 6,594,440 B1) for inputting reservation information concerning a reservation of the sub-unit;

storage means (reservation data store section 4 of Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 63-67 of US 6,594,440 B1) for storing the reservation information concerning the reservation of the sub-unit; and

supplying means (an on-screen display section 8 of Fig. 1, col. 5, lines 5-12 of US 6,594,440 B1) for reading out the reservation information stored in said storage means and supplying the reservation information to said external information processing apparatus in response to a request from said external information processing apparatus.

Regarding claim 2, Tanimura et al discloses the claimed writing means (an on-screen display section 8 of Fig. 1, col. 5, lines 5-12 of US 6,594,440 B1) for writing the reservation information of the sub-unit of said information processing apparatus into said storage means and for writing reservation information of a sub-unit of said external information processing apparatus into storage means of said external information processing apparatus when a reservation is made for using the sub-unit of said information processing apparatus in cooperation with the sub-unit of said external information processing apparatus at the same time.

Regarding claim 3, Tanimura et al discloses the claimed comparison means (editing the reservation data disclosed in col. 5, lines 5-12 of US 6,594,440 B1) for comparing the reservation information input by said input means with the reservation

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information stored in said storage means of said information of said storage means of said information processing apparatus and the reservation information of said storage means of said external information processing apparatus including the sub-unit to be used at the same time as the sub-unit of said information processing apparatus; wherein said writing means writes the reservation information in accordance with a comparing result obtained by said comparison means (editing the reservation data disclosed in col. 5, lines 5-12 of US 6,594,440 B1).

Regarding claim 5, Tanimura et al discloses the claimed wherein said writing means interrupts said external information processing apparatus from reading the reservation information from said storage means of said information processing apparatus when said writing means writes the reservation information into said storage means of said information processing apparatus (col. 5, lines 5-12 of US 6,594,440 B1).

Regarding claim 7, Tanimura et al discloses the claimed wherein said storage means stores the reservation information at a predetermined address position (reservation data store section 4 of Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 63-67 and col. 5, lines 5-12 of US 6,594,440 B1).

Regarding claim 8, Tanimura et al discloses the claimed wherein the reservation information includes a sub-unit start time at which the use of the sub-unit is started and a period for using the sub-unit (reservation data of Fig. 7, col. 6, lines 12-18 of US 6,594,440 B1).

Regarding claim 9, Tanimura et al discloses the claimed wherein the period for using the sub-unit is set as an undefined value (reservation data of Fig. 7, col. 6, lines 12-18 of US 6,594,440 B1).

Regarding claim 10, Tanimura et al discloses the claimed wherein the reservation information includes apparatus information (channel number of reservation data of Fig. 7, col. 6, lines 12-18 of US 6,594,440 B1) concerning the information processing apparatus that reserves the sub-unit, and the apparatus information is stored at an address position subsequent to the address positions of the sub-unit start time and the period for using the sub-unit.

Regarding claim 12, Tanimura et al discloses the claimed wherein said storage means further stores identification information for identifying the stored reservation information (the reservation data of Fig. 7, col. 6, lines 12-18 of US 6,594,440 B1).

Regarding claim 13, Tanimura et al discloses the claimed wherein the identification information includes a value unique to the information processing apparatus that has reserved the sub-unit (channel number of reservation data of Fig. 7, col. 6, lines 12-18 of US 6,594,440 B1) and a value unique to the reservation set of said information processing apparatus (date, start time, and end time of reservation data of Fig. 7, col. 6, lines 12-18 of US 6,594,440 B1).

Regarding claim 14, Tanimura et al discloses the claimed wherein the value unique to the information processing apparatus is a global unique ID (channel number of reservation data of Fig. 7, col. 6, lines 12-18 of US 6,594,440 B1) and the value

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unique to the reservation is a record ID (date, start time, and end time of reservation data of Fig. 7, col. 6, lines 12-18 of US 6,594,440 B1).

Regarding claim 15, Tanimura et al discloses the claimed wherein the reservation information includes weekly reservation information of the sub-unit that is weekly reserved by specifying a day of the week (col. 6, lines 18-25 of US 6,594,440 B1).

Regarding claim 16, Tanimura et al discloses the claimed wherein the reservation information includes interval reservation information of the sub-unit that is repeatedly reserved at a predetermined interval (daily or weekly reservation disclosed in col. 6, lines 18-25 of US 6,594,440 B1).

Regarding claim 17, Tanimura et al discloses the claimed wherein said storage means is one of the sub-units (reservation data store section 4 of Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 63-67 of US 6,594,440 B1 is considered to be one sub-unit).

Method claim 19 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in apparatus claim 1.

Recording medium claim 20 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in apparatus claim 1 and the reservation data store section 4 of Fig. 1 of US 6,594,440 B1 (col. 2, lines 65-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanimura et al (WO97/36295, see US Patent No. 6,594,440 B1 for corresponding) in view of Oguro et al ('220 B2).

Regarding claim 4, Tanimura et al discloses all the claimed features as discussed in claim 2 above except for providing that said writing means restricts the reservation information to be written into said storage means of said information processing apparatus from said external information storage apparatus when said writing means writes the reservation information into said storage means of said information processing apparatus.

Oguro et al teaches an apparatus for TV broadcast copy protection having SCMS data to copy protecting television broadcast programs recorded on and to reproduced from the recording medium (col. 1, lines 24-38 and col. 9, line 42 to col. 10, line 25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the copy protecting signal as taught by Oguro et al into Tanimura et al's system in order to protect the video signal recorded on or reproduced from the recording medium.

Regarding claim 6, Tanimura et al discloses all the claimed features as discussed in claim 1 except for providing that the storage means stores limitation information concerning a limitation of the reservation information to be stored, and said supply means supplies the limitation information to said external information processing apparatus in response to a request from said external information processing apparatus.

Oguro et al teaches an apparatus for TV broadcast copy protection having SCMS data to copy protecting television broadcast programs recorded on and to reproduced from the recording medium (col. 1, lines 24-38 and col. 9, line 42 to col. 10, line 25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the copy protecting signal as taught by Oguro et al into Tanimura et al's system in order to protect the video signal recorded on or reproduced from the recording medium.

7. Claims 11 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanimura et al (WO97/36295, see US Patent No. 6,594,440 B1 for corresponding).

Regarding claim 11, Tanimura et al discloses all the claimed features as discussed in claim 8 above except for providing that the sub-unit start time is represented by a binary-coded decimal.

The capability of encoding the time data in binary-coded decimal is old and well known in the art and therefore Official Notice is taken.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the well known binary-coded decimal into Tanimura et al's system since it merely amounts to selecting an alternative equivalent encoding method for the time data.

Regarding claim 18, Tanimura et al discloses all the claimed features as discussed in claim 1 above except for providing that the network is formed by using an IEEE-1394 serial data bus.

It is noted that the capability of using IEEE-1394 for transmitting video and control data in order to increase the transmitting speed of the video data is old and well known in the art and therefore Official Notice is taken.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the well known IEEE-1394 into Tanimura et al's system in order to increase the transmitting speed of the video signal.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The cited references relate to an apparatus for programming the VCR in unattended recording.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thai Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4725. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

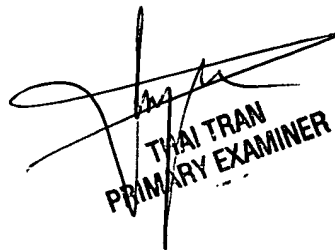
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The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

TTQ
September 12, 2003


THAI TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER